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application and hereby incorporated by reference. For example, the storage stability of many silanes can be relatively poor such that once an air-tight seal is broken, the silane is preferably used as soon as possible; silanes are preferably mixed first with certain materials before mixing with other materials, such as mixing silanes with silica before adding competing chemicals like glycols, amines, zinc oxide and some antidegradants; and liquid silanes can be prone to hydrolysis so the silanes can be provided in, for example, heat-sealed silane + N330 in ethylene vinyl acetate bags, wax bound silane in pellet form, and thermoplastic resin bound silanes in pellet form.

In the claims:

Please amend claims 11, 16, 23, 45, and 88 as follows:

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11. (Twice amended) A marking composition, comprising:
a polymer first material comprising silicon;
a second material capable of extending polymeric chains of the first material; and
a blocked, catalytic crosslinking agent,
wherein the marking composition is capable of undergoing a change that can be detected optically when the composition is contacted with energy.

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16. (Twice amended) A marking composition, comprising:
a polymer silicone resin; and
a blocked, catalytic crosslinking agent capable of crosslinking with the resin,
wherein the marking composition is capable of undergoing a change that can be detected optically when the composition is contacted with energy.

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23. (Amended) The composition of claim 16, wherein the crosslinking agent comprises a carbamate.

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45. (Twice amended) An article, comprising:
a substrate; and

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a marking composition on the substrate, the composition comprising
a polymer first material comprising silicon;
a second material capable of extending polymeric chains of the first material; and
a blocked, catalytic crosslinking agent,
wherein the marking composition is capable of undergoing a change that can be detected
optically when the composition is contacted with energy.

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88. (Amended) The article of claim 49, wherein the optical tag comprises 2,2'-(2,5-thiophenediyl)bis[5-tert-butylbenzoxazole].

Please add the following new claims:

89. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein the crosslinking agent is capable of deblocking to form an amine.

90. (New) The composition of claim 11, wherein the crosslinking agent comprises a silane.

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91. (New) The composition of claim 16, wherein the crosslinking agent is capable of deblocking to form an amine.

92. (New) The composition of claim 16, wherein the crosslinking agent comprises a silane.

93. (New) The composition of claim 45, wherein the crosslinking agent is capable of deblocking to form an amine.

94. (New) The composition of claim 45, wherein the crosslinking agent comprises a silane.